Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An impeller for use in a mixing vessel, comprising:

a hub;

an inner blade portion extending directly from the hub and angled in a first direction ~~having a leading edge that is generally straight~~ and said inner blade portion comprising two planar portions at an angle to each other;

an outer blade portion disposed radially outward from the inner blade portion, ~~said~~ the outer blade portion ~~having a leading edge that is generally straight~~ and said outer blade portion being twisted to have a gradually changing angle of attack along its radial length; and

a connector element that provides radial spacing between respective inner and outer blade portions,

wherein ~~at least one of said inner blade portion and said outer blade portion is twisted~~ the inner blade portion has a radial length that is longer than a radial length of the outer blade portion, and wherein the outer blade portion is angled in a second direction opposite to the first direction.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Original) An impeller according to claim 1, wherein the inner blade portion is twisted, and the outer blade portion is twisted.

5. (Original) An impeller according to claim 1, wherein the connector is a cylindrical rod.

6. (Currently Amended) An impeller for use in a mixing vessel, comprising:

a hub;

at least two inner blade portions ~~disposed~~ extending directly radially outward from the hub and angled in a first direction each ~~having a leading edge that is generally straight~~ and said inner blade portion comprising two planar portions at an angle to each other;

at least two outer blade portions disposed radially outward from respective inner blade portions, ~~said outer blade portions each having a leading edge that is generally straight~~ and said outer blade portion being twisted to have a gradually changing angle of attack along its radial length; and

at least two ~~a~~ connector elements that each provide radial spacing between respective inner and outer blade portions,

wherein ~~at least one of said at least two inner blade portions and said at least two outer blade portions is twisted~~ the inner blade portion has a radial length that is longer than a radial length of the outer blade portion, and wherein the outer blade portion is angled in a second direction opposite to the first direction.

7. (Original) An impeller according to claim 6, wherein the at least two inner blade portions are twisted.

8. (Original) An impeller according to claim 6, wherein the at least two outer blade portions are twisted.

9. (Original) An impeller according to claim 6, wherein the at least two inner blade portions are twisted, and the outer blade portions are twisted.

10. (Original) An impeller according to claim 6, wherein said at least two connector elements are cylindrical rods.

11. (Currently Amended) An impeller for use in a mixing vessel, comprising:

a hub;

at least two inner blade portions extending directly for the hub angled in a first direction each ~~having a leading edge that is generally straight~~ and said inner blade portion comprising two planar portions at an angle to each other;

at least two outer blade portions disposed radially outward from respective inner blade portion, ~~said outer blade portions each having a leading edge that is generally straight~~ and said outer blade portion being twisted to have a gradually changing angle of attack along its radial length; and

means for providing radial spacing between respective inner and outer blade portions.

wherein ~~at least one of said at least two inner blade portions and said at least two outer blade portions is twisted~~ the inner blade portion has a radial length that is longer than a radial length of the outer blade portion, and wherein the outer blade portion is angled in a second direction opposite to the first direction.

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Original) An impeller according to claim 11, wherein the inner blade portions are twisted, and the outer blade portions are twisted.

15. (Original) An impeller according to claim 11, wherein the means for providing radial spacing is a cylindrical rod.

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Cancelled).

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Cancelled).

23. (Cancelled).

24. (Cancelled).

25. (Cancelled).

26. (Cancelled).

27. (Cancelled).